

Message Text

SECRET

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16

ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1748

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EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MASS, TH

SUBJECT: FY1973 SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 054439

FOR UNDER SECRETARY TARR AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREEN FROM
UNGER

1. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE PERSONAL ATTENTION YOU ARE DEVOTING TO THAI ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE AND EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS MADE BY ALL WASHINGTON AGENCIES CONCERNED TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT ITEMS RESPONSIVE TO THAI REQUESTS FOR MORE ASSISTANCE. DESPITE SOME OF OUR OWN RESERVATIONS ON SPECIFICS, MENTIONED BELOW, WE WILL OF COURSE PRESENT THIS PACKAGE IN BEST LIGHT AS TELLING EVIDENCE OF U. S. INTEREST AND SUPPORT AND ARE CONFIDENT IT WILL BE RECEIVED POSITIVELY AND IN THAT SPIRIT.

2. RE C-123'S, I AM VERY PLEASED THAT THEY ARE " K " MODEL. THIS WILL GREATLY ENHANCE ATTRACTION TO THAIS WHO HAVE BEEN PRESSING US FOR THAT MODEL (NOTE: PARTICULARLY THANOM'S SON WHO IS ROYAL PILOT AND ASSISTANT COMMANDER OF C-123 SQUADRON). IN PRESENTING THIS TO THAIS WE PLAN MAKE ARGUMENT THAT MEETING MODERNIZATION NEEDS OF RTAF TRANSPORTATION SQUADRON SEVERAL YEARS IN ADVANCE OUGHT TO FREE UP RESOURCES, WHICH SHOULD PUT THAIS IN POSITION REPROGRAM THESE RESOURCES FOR CI- RELATED REQUIREMENTS.

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3. ALTHOUGH SELF- PROPELLED HOWITZERS HAVE LIMITED CI RELEVANCE AND WOULD NOT BE IN LINE WITH OUR STRONG EFFORTS THESE PAST YEARS TO GET THAI MILITARY ORIENTED TOWARD MORE PERTINENT METHODS OF ATTACKING INSURGENCY PROBLEM, WE CANNOT REALLY BE SURE OF THAI REACTION TO THIS ITEM UNTIL WE HAVE DISCUSSED IT WITH THEM. (NOTE: UNDERSTAND U. S. AND ARVN EXPERIENCE IN RVN WITH THIS EQUIPMENT WAS NOT GOOD AND IT REQUIRED WELL ABOVE NORMAL MAINTENANCE OF FORT; HOWITZERS MAY THEREFORE TURN OUT TO BE COSTLY IN TERMS OF FOLLOW- ON O& M; THAIS ARE AWARE OF THIS).

4. I MENTIONED TO PRIME MINISTER YESTERDAY IN MOST GENERAL TERMS THAT WE WORKING ON AN ASSISTANCE PACKAGE AND THAT I EXPECT TO HAVE MORE DEFINITIVE WORK WHEN I SEE HIM AGAIN ON MONDAY. HE EXPRESSED GREAT APPRECIATION FOR OUR EFFORTS.

I WILL INCLUDE HOWITZERS IN MY PRESENTATION TO SHOW THAT WE MINDFUL OF RTA'S NEEDS, BUT WILL ALSO INDICATE TO HIM THAT WE CONTINUING OUR SEARCHES ALSO FOR IMMEDIATELY SUITABLE ITEMS FOR RTA. WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE IF POSSIBLE BEFORE MONDAY ANY FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO WHAT MIGHT BE TURNED UP.

5. IN ORDER PERMIT FULL PRESENTATION OF ECONOMIC SIDE OF PACKAGE, SEPTTEL DETAILING DEVELOPMENT LOA ASPECTS (PARA 2 A REFTTEL) MUST REACH ME BY OPENING OF BUSINESS BANGKOK TIME.

6. AT THIS STAGE, I SEE NO IMMEDIATE NEED TO GO INTO COSTS FOR REHABILITATION, SPARES, ETC,. ALTHOUGH THIS WILL BECOME IMPORTANT IN FOLLOW- ON DISCUSSIONS WITH THAIS AT SENIOR STAFF LEVELS. WILL THEREFORE NEED PRECISE INFORMATION AS SOON AS IT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE AND HOPE THAT EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO KEEP CHARGES AGAINST NEXT YEAR' S MAP MINIMAL TO ENHANCE POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE PACKAGE WHICH IS SO URGENT AT THIS TIME.

7. AGAIN, THANKS ALL AROUND.
UNGER

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